

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /073 W
-----103586 041551Z /43

R 041140Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3684
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 9005

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PK, BG, IN, PFOR, NP
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH OTHER SOUTH ASIAN STATES

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 8946 B) DACCA 4946

1. ACTING POLCOUNS MET NAJMUDDIN SHEIKH, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL (SOUTH ASIA) SEPTEMBER FOURTH. ON TABARAK HOSSAIN VISIT, SHEIKH SAID THAT GOP WAS ONLY FULFILLING ITS OBLIGATION BY ACCEPTING 25,000 ADDITIONAL BIHARIS (NOT BIHARI FAMILIES AS STATED IN REFTEL A). COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH VIEW EXPRESSED BY HARUN, REFTEL B, THAT IT IS POLITICALLY EASIER FOR INTERIM GOVERNMENT TO REPATRIATE ADDITONAL BIHARIS THAN IT WOULD BE FOR A SUCCESSOR GOVERNMENT.

2. SHEIKH SAID THAT THE GOP IS ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR INTER-CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONAL SUPPORT TO FUND TRANSPORTATION OF BIHARIS TO PAKISTAN. ONCE THEY ARE IN COUNTRY, THE GOP WILL USE ITS OWN RESOURCES FOR THEIR RESETTLEMENT. SHEIKH ALSO SAID THAT THERE IS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN DACCA AND ISLAMABAD TO EXCHANGE MILITARY ATTACHES. NEITHER COUNTRY IS PUSHING THIS ISSUE, HOWEVER, AND IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THE AGREEMENT IS IMPLEMENTED.

3. ON INDO/PAK RELATIONS, SHEIKH ECHOED GOP LINE THAT INDIANS HAVE "CORRECT" ATTITUDE TOWARD PAKISTAN AND HAVE SHOWN RESTRAINT WHICH IS APPRECIATED BY ISLAMABAD. SHEIKH ALSO NOTED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS RECENTLY SIGNED A NEW VISA AGREEMENT WHICH ALLOWS, IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS, AIR CREWS AND TECHNICIANS FROM THEIR TWO NATIONAL AIRLINES TO TRAVEL TO THE OTHER COUNTRY WITHOUT VISAS. SHEIKH CALLED IT A "FACILITATIVE" AGREEMENT, NOT VERY IMPORTANT BY ITSELF, BUT NEVERTHELESS INDICATIVE OF THE DESIRE ON BOTH SIDES TO KEEP RELATIONS ON AN EVEN KEEL.

4. SHEIKH SAID ONLY MINOR JARRING NOTE IN INDO/PAK RELATIONS WAS INDICAN DEFENSE MINISTER'S STATEMENT IN CALCUTTA WARNING OF A "MAD VENTURE" BY PAKISTAN. HE ASKED IF WE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON RAM'S SPEECH. ACTING POLCOUNS DREW ON USEFUL BACKGROUND CONTAINED IN NEW DELHI 12222, TO GIVE SHEIKH FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COMMENT. SHEIKH EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID THE REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED WAS FRAGMENTARY AND DISTORTED.

5. EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF AIR LINKS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND NEPAL. SHEIKH REPLED THAT PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD, AND PIA WAS CONSIDERING FLYING TO DACCA VIA KATHMANDU. HE ADDED, HOWEVER THAT HE DOUBTED THE ROUTE WILL OPEN BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.
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